Development of Small and Medium Towns to Punjab during the last three years is as under:—

	(Rs. lakhs)
1986-87	54.63
1987-88	80.28
1988-89	46.00
TOTAL:	180.91

(b) The following towns have availed of the full amount of Central assistance for IDSMT projects (excluding the low cost sanitation components):—

1. Pathankot
2. Soshiarpur
3. Moga
4. Phagwara
5. Khanna
6. Bhatinda
7. Batala
8. Sangrur

Viability of oilpalm cultivation

1343. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cultivation of oilpalm is still not commercially viable:

(b) whether non-availability of quality seeds and lack of adequate infrastructure are some of the reasons therefor: and

(c) if so, what steps have been proposed to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Oilpalm has the highest productivity among all edible oil yielding crops. Oilpalm is a viable crop for cultivation on a commercial scale.

(b) ICAR, through the Central Plantation Crop Reserch Institute Research Centre, Palode is capable of producing about 4 lakh of tenere hybrid seeds which will be sufficient for taking up plantation of oilpalm in 2000 ha. annually. Certain infrastructural facilities viz. provision of irrigation facilities throughout the year, well defined climatic conditions, adequate processing facilities etc. are essential for the development of oilpalm cultivation.

(c) For demonstrating the feasibility of oil-palm cultivation under irrigated conditions, the Government of India in collaboration with the State Governments of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have launched the Oilpalm demonstration projects in these three States in an area of about 1000 ha. each. 70 per cent of this area will be planted with imported seeds while the balance 30 per cent will be planted with indigenously produced planting material. Apart from this it is proposed to implement a scheme for oilpalm development with an outlay of Rs. 1.70 crores for 1989-90.

Introduction of Second Channel in Guwahati Doordarshan

1344. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whehter Government had received any proposal from the Assam Government for introducing a second channel in Guwahati Doordarshan Kendra for the dissemination of information relating to agriculture: and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) and (b) No such proposal appears to have been received by the Government in the recent past.